
SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – March 2022

Stories

Just a note to express my appreciation and gratitude for the decision to groom the bike path/greenway so expertly and thoughtfully, keeping it open right through the winter. Every day I see so many people walking, x-c skiing, traveling by bike and walking their dogs. The new signs are useful, too. Keep up the good work!

-- Mary Chaffee

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- March Work Anniversaries – Brendan Kaplan (2), Stan Bajuk (10), Josh Cushing (2), Bob Lapointe (38!), Gene Aube (32!)
- Positions open for Event Planner, Central Facilities Maintenance Specialist and Recreation Specialist
- Reopening Lead Urban Park Ranger and finalizing Recreation Manager position
- Paul Morris departing from Grounds Manager to the DPW Streets team. We thank Paul for his service to BPRW and wish him the best on his next adventure.

COVID-19

- Mask mandate repealed from the City but BPRW youth programs will continue to follow BSD guidelines.

Major upcoming events: <http://enjoyburlington.com/events/>

- Wintervale @ The Intervale on March 6 - <https://www.intervale.org/calendar/wintervale>

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- High school and junior hockey season wind down in March with tournament season wrapping up by the end of the month. March highlights include Dragonheart Vermont Save Your Shamrocks hockey tournament, Champlain Valley Skating Club's Theatre on Ice Festival, and BPRW's Challenge Cup skating competition, in addition to several spring hockey programs. Lucky for us hockey is year-round passion for many Vermonters!
- Studio ice is removed at the end of March, to be reopened in September. During the summer months the studio rink is booked weekly as a rain site for many of BPRW's outdoor camps.

- New arena users include Top Prospects Goaltending, Maple City Mayhem Hockey, St Albans Skating Association, as well as three new adult groups in March. We also already have 12 birthday parties booked for the month of March.

Miller Center

- March BPRW programs at the Miller Center include our free morning walking program, yoga, American Sign Language, adult indoor soccer, line dancing, beginning knitting, 5 levels of Soccer Sparks, women's basketball league, women's indoor soccer, and of course 9 sessions of pickleball each week.
- Miller Center gym rentals are slowing down as winter winds down. We have some weeknight and weekend availability in March and April – spread the word! One activity that will continue through March is our partnership with Vermont Department of Health to offer free weekly Covid-19 booster clinics every Wednesday from 9am-2pm.
- Miller Center also partners with Pete's Greens to provide a pickup site for their year-round farmshare CSAs. Over a dozen neighbors visit Miller every Wednesday to pick up their boxes of fresh local vegetables, and specialty items such as cheese, bread, eggs and more!

CORE

- BPRW partners with AALV to provide gym space at the CORE for AALV's teen program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the school year.
- The first floor event space at the ONE Center, which BPRW manages on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust, has been closed to events since last summer due to concerns about community gatherings during Covid. We hope to reopen this space this spring or summer to provide event space for various community and cultural activities.
- March Very Merry performances at the CORE include Cinderella, the Broadway version, March 4-6 and Jungle Book March 11 & 12. The CORE will also be host to eight one week summer camps produced by VMT.

Park Division Update

Park Administration

- VueWorks work orders have been live since February 1. We have been inputting work orders, integrating see click fix requests, meeting to discuss workflow challenges and setting up business processes and standards.
- Working with capital committee to further the capital report and comprehensive building needs and project listings for a March 1 vote.
- Reposting and advertising for Central Facilities Maintenance Specialist and preparations to move to City Council approval for a second HVAC position.
- Finalizing payment and reconciling accounts for the Sears Lane encampment.
- Continued safety and diversity trainings as required.
- Working on Fireworks RFP and the Skate Park Repairs Contracts

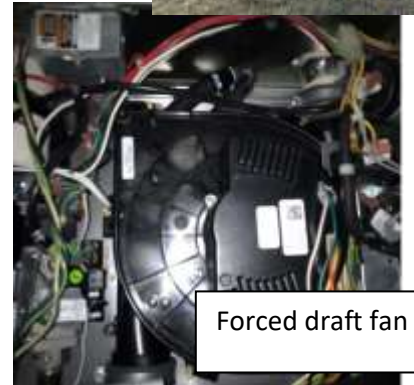
Conservation Program

- Garden registration for the 2022 season is almost complete – and in record time! Meghan O'Daniel opened up New Gardener registration on February 7th with 25% of the program's plots available, and as of February 28th only has a few plots left to fill.

- Planning for the 50th anniversary of community gardening is still underway and things are really beginning to take shape.
- Planning and designing conservation projects for the upcoming season to help solve erosion issues in areas along the greenway.
- Designing universal trail signage, starting with Arms Park.
- Supported cross-country skiing groomers at Rock Point and the Intervale by supplying materials and plowing parking lots.
- Continuing to update conservation assets and signage in GIS.

Central Facilities Program

- Custodial team pitched in during recent winter storm!
- Custodial team assisted in setting up voting equipment.
- Forced draft fan replaced at the Welcome Center. Heat is back up and running!
- Repaired broken backboard height adjustment mechanism at the Miller Center.
- Collaborated with Parks Facilities team to replace supply fan motor at 645 Pine.
- Installed heat tape to pipe at 339 Pine to prevent freezing.
- Asbestos and PCB testing done at Memorial Auditorium.
- Microphones sourced and ordered for Contois and Bushor Conference Room remote meetings.
- City Hall server room door security upgrade complete.
- RFP posted for slate roof and ceiling repair at the BCA.
- Preliminary planning for EV chargers at Leddy, 645 Pine and BPD.



Forced draft fan

Trees and Greenways Program

- Continued utility line clearance contract work for BED. \$82,000 billed to date.
- Responded to resident request as needed.
- Responded to downed tree limbs caused by a recent high wind event.
- Continued REIB trainings
- Removed additional hazard trees at North beach.
- Finalized spring tree planting sites, selected species for each site.
- Completed a planting plan for Champlain School and Starr Farm Dog Park and ordered trees.

Park Facilities Program

- Continued implementation of VueWorks Asset Management
- Installed electrical/data outlets on the floor in FFL children's section
- Inspecting/repairing mooring and dock hardware, ordering replacement parts
- Working to get pricing on security gates at dock sections A/C and D.
- REIB training / Vueworks training
- Snow and Ice removal as required.



Removal of hazard tree on Catherine St. damaged by high winds

- Assisted with posting RFP for Red Stone Cottage restoration

Cemetery Program

- Providing burial service Monday – Friday
- Maintaining summer mowing equipment
- Several wedding rentals of the chapel

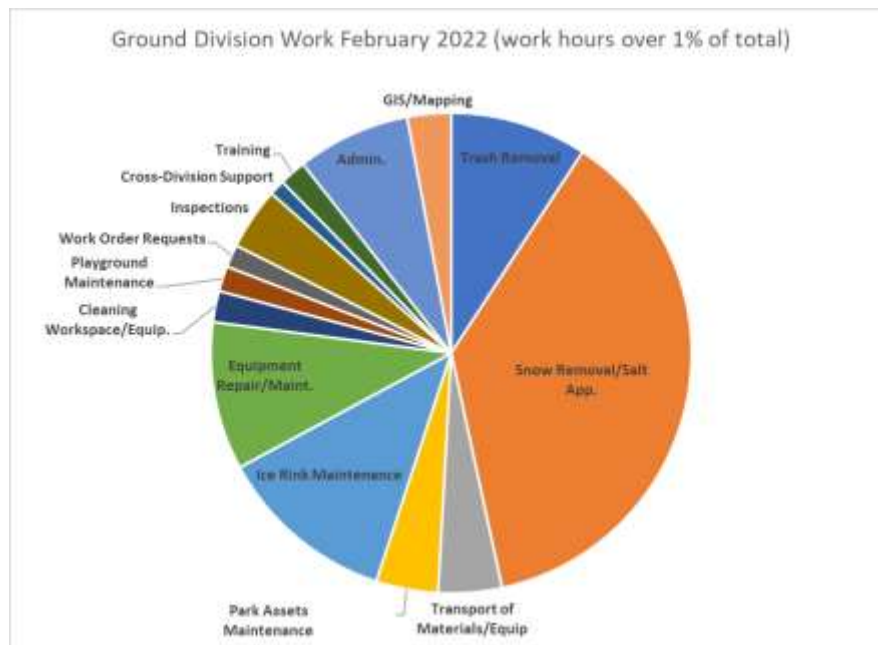
Grounds Maintenance Program

- Dedicating 197 work hours to staying ahead of snow removal in parks across the city.
- Renewing MOU's with Little Leagues for 2022.
- Testing out Viewworks and troubleshooting work orders for grounds staff
- Repairing and maintaining small equipment for the mowing crew.
- Building new picnic tables to be sent out to parks in Spring.
- Taking inventory of landscape materials needed for Athletic fields. Creating special orders for field products.
- Maintaining outdoor Ice rinks as weather cooperates

Wedding at the chapel



Activity	% time	Total Hours
Trash Removal	9.03%	48.5
Snow Removal/Salt App.	36.67%	197
Transport of Materials/Equip	4.19%	22.5
Park Assets Maintenance	4.09%	22
Ice Rink Maintenance	11.82%	63.5
Equipment Repair/Maint.	9.77%	52.5
Cleaning Workspace/Equip.	2.05%	11
Playground Maintenance	1.68%	9
Work Order Requests	1.49%	8
Inspections	4.09%	22
Cross-Division Support	1.02%	5.5
Training	1.77%	9.5
Admin.	7.49%	40.25
GIS/Mapping	2.89%	15.5
Total hours =	100.00%	537.25



Planning Division Update

○ Projects Progressing:

- **Bike Path Projects:**

- Paused until spring

- **Calahan Park Master Plan:** Final draft report received – in BPRW review. Aiming to bring to Parks Commission in April for approval

- Contract awarded to a playground manufacturer to implement Phase 1 of the plan.

- **Champlain Street Park Redesign:** Ongoing design work with internal City team on the redesign. Additional outreach in collaboration with AALV completed, summarizing outreach.

- **Kieslich Park:** Working with consultant team at Cambrian rise on finalizing documentation needed to bid out the construction of the connection to the Greenway in 2022. Working on an internal review of the updated planting plan based on collaborative BPRW feedback.

- **Leddy Park Comprehensive Plan:** Internal Kick-Off scheduled for March 15th – public outreach envisioned in May.

- **Oakledge for All Universal Access:** Anticipating grant agreement in-hand soon for spring bidding. The consultant continues to work on bid documents for the playground. Revamped bids for restroom renovations and reposted. Fitness equipment bid out, waiting on proposals. Aiming to release RFP for Resident Engineer Services in early March.

- **Perkins Pier Siting Study:** Final report resubmitted to BPRW – final review occurring now. Aiming to bring to Parks Commission in April for approval.



Max Madalinski, Project Coordinator, utilizes his e-bike year-round to check out project sites.

- **Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan:** Working on determining next steps for this project based on existing lot coverage.
- **Schifilliti Path:** Kick off being scheduled with VTrans, consultant and BPRW.
- **Wayfinding:** Working on identifying priority locations for updated park signage and on Greenway etiquette signage.
- Projects starting soon
 - Leddy Park Pause Place
- Projects supporting other divisions/ departments: (abbreviated)
 - Playground Equipment and Compliance
 - Survivors of St. Joseph Orphanage Project

Waterfront Division Update

- BPRW, in conjunction with Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports submitted an ARPA Grant proposal on January 31, 2022 for a requested \$8,215,372 to revitalize Perkins Pier. The grant proposal requests funds for the renovation and stabilization of the flood-prone land, remove the existing flood-damaged building and replace it with two buildings. One would be for public and recreation services, while the other building would house BPRW staff to support waterfront operations. The proposal also includes a request to fund improvements to parking, stormwater, an ADA small craft launch and a splash pad.
 - We received notice that there were many applicants, and the decision was pushed back until later in 2022. We are currently conducting outreach to Vermont's federal delegation to apprise them of our application.

Marinas & Harbor

- The Marina Manager is working with DPW to place a new kiosk at Perkins Pier for this Summer. This would help us realize higher parking revenues for this site. In addition, all waterfront surface lots will be enforced by DPW parking surfaces this year.
- The marina completed their installation of the new operating software, Dockwa. Billing has started for the 2022 season. Dockwa allows for far better communication to our boaters, and we are looking forward to utilizing this in the future. In addition, boaters will be able to make online reservations for the first time at our marina.
- The marina is exploring adding gates to dock entrances. Vandalism and break-ins have been occurring more frequently, and we need to address the safety of our boaters.
- The Marina Manager, Brendan Kaplan, started a marina certification program the end of February in FL.



Field trip to a shipyard at the marina school

Campground & Beaches

- We are mid-process of switching to the new campground software, Astra. As soon as the software is complete, we will announce our opening date for 2022 reservations. We anticipate March 15th.
- North Beach will have the same food concessionaire as previous seasons, as the existing concessionaire successfully applied for another contract term with us at North Beach.
- We are exploring creating a seasonal position to help in monitoring water quality at all of our beaches, as this duty has grown and occupies a significant amount of our Manager's time.
- We are also meeting with other State & municipal representatives from around Lake Champlain to see about unifying signage.

Events

- With approved applications for 2022 complete, our Events Manager has now moved forward to working with the specific events to finalize their contracts, in time order. We are now in the two-week window for our first 2022 event, the Penguin Plunge, located at the public launch ramp by Waterfront Park.
- Below is the current DRAFT of the event schedule. This is subject to change:

Date 2022	Waterfront Park Event
March 12	Special Olympics VT Penguin Plunge
May 11	VIP
May 14	Kids Day
May 22	OFF/Not Available
May 28,29	VCM & Mini
June 4	OFF/Not Available
June 10, 11	Discover Jazz
June 18, 19	Juneteenth
June 25	Off /Not available
July 3	Burlington Independence Day Celeb
July 10	Off/Not Available
July 22,23	Vermont's Brewer's Fest
July 28-31	Maritime Festival
August 6,7	LCDB Festival
August 13	OFF/Not Available
August 27	Available
September 3	OFF/Not Available
September 9-10	ACBS
September 18	Pride Fest
September 24,25	GPN
October 1	OFF/Not Available
October 8	Wedding

Urban Park Rangers

- We have reopened the Lead Urban Park Ranger position as the top candidates pulled out due to accepting other positions. The Park Ranger position has now been posted.
- The work at Leddy continues to transform this space for the Urban Park Rangers. In addition, we are bidding out for e-bikes for the Ranger program to utilize to travel within our parks system. They will be located at Leddy for staff use.

Recreation Division Update:

The Recreation Division offered three separate day-long Winter Vacation Week Camps from February 21-25; a State Licensed Child Care Vacation Camp at the Miller Center, Wunderle Circus Camp at CP Smith and Winter Break Cool Camp at Leddy Ice Arena. All of these camps were a big hit with Burlington families. Online registration for all of our youth summer camps went LIVE on February 1st and generated over \$100,000 in registration fees in the first 24 hours of making these camps available to the public. We are hopeful that this fast start to the summer registration season means more families being comfortable sending their kids to summer camps in 2022.



Field trips back for Feb Vacation Camp!

The Recreation Division is finalizing an agreement with the Burlington School District to access Federal Covid-19 relief funds specifically intended for free summer programs. Last summer, we received a grant award was for \$108,000 and a similar amount of funding will be made available for Summer 2022. These funds are crucial for providing transportation for all summer programs (including BSD Summer School SOAR Program) as well as supporting our six Recreation & Nutrition sites (FREE Program) throughout the City. Additionally, VT After School Summer Matters Grants are being made available again for Summer 2022. We received \$35,000 in assistance from this funding source last summer and will be applying for Summer 2022 funds this March.



Circus camp is always a hit!

Leddy Arena Programs

- **Freestyle Ice (on-going until May):** Meant for practice/instruction with a coach. Mornings Monday-Friday
- **Adult Skating Clinics (on-going until May):** Tuesday & Wednesday Mornings. Figures Clinic/Advanced Skating
- **Public Skate (on-going until May):** Drop-in only. Monday-Thursdays 9:00am-10:30am
- **Stick and Puck (on-going until May):** Drop-in only. M/T/TH 10:45am-12:15pm
- **Lessons**
 - Itty Bitty Lessons, Level 1-6, Super Sk8 and Adult
- February Break youth skating camps are full and we look forward to a fun week on the ice at Leddy
- Completed successful Winter Vacation Cool Camps February 21-25

Miller/CORE Programs

- Winter Programs taking place at the Miller Community & Recreation Center or the ONE Community Center included:
 - American Sign Language
 - Ethiopian Cooking with Mulu Tewelde
 - Senior Adult Tax Assistance
 - North End Yoga
 - Yoga for Adults
 - Very Merry Theatre for Adults
 - Virtual Fitness Class
 - Women's Self Defense
 - Out & About Trips

CORE Adult Center

- CORE Adult Center participants attended EIGHT trips in February to destinations throughout Vermont
- CORE Adult Center staff continue to offer a daily lunch program for Burlington seniors. Transportation to our Congregate Meal site is provided by SSTA through a statewide grant administered by Green Mountain Transit and United Way of Northwestern VT. ***Additionally, staff are working with Age Well VT and Champlain Housing Trust to restart our weekly Bhutanese Community Meal at the CORE Adult Center. We anticipate 20 to 30 Bhutanese Senior Adults to begin attending this weekly event in April.***
- Offerings at the CORE Adult Center:
 - Chair Yoga, Bone Builders, International Cooking and Cooking with Mulu, Acrylics, Reminiscing, Book Club, Bingo, Theatre Class, Nature Crafts, Seed Saving, and a daily social hour

Department Events

- Recreation Division staff are partnering with the Old East End Neighborhood Coalition to present a three-day *Winterlude* event at Schmanska Park. We have moved all of our winter sports equipment to the Schmanska Barn and will have it available for families to use on February 4,5,6. ***Due to the success of this three-day event, we partnered for two more successful event dates on February 26 & 27.***
- The Event Planner position has been vacant since early September and the position has been posted. We hope to have a new Events Planner in place by the end of March.
- Recreation staff are assisting in the planning of *Wintervale in the Intervale* on March 6th. We will have staff lending BPRW winter equipment (XC skis, boots, poles, sleds and snowshoes) at this event.
- Planning for Kids Day, Leddy Beach Bites and July 3rd Fireworks has already begun and we are very much looking forward to being able to bring people together for our City-sponsored events.



Winterlude Extended!



Athletics

- BPRW Youth Basketball Season came to a successful conclusion on Saturday, February 12th. We thank the Burlington Boys & Girls Club and the Burlington School District for allowing us to utilize gymnasium space for our youth games and practices.
- Our Melanie Davidian Women's Basketball League is beginning playoffs in March. We have seven teams playing in the league this winter vying for the championship.
- Youth indoor soccer programs were completed in February.
- We are currently registering youth for spring soccer, basketball and softball clinics.

Admin Division Update

- Submitted Act 250 minor amendment for Red Stone Cottage restoration and worked with Park Facilities to release the RFP for it. Four contractors showed up for the pre-bid meeting.
- Working on an ordinance subcommittee as part of PACC Dog Task Force
- Submitted two presentation proposals for the fall VRPA conference
- On hold are three limited part-time positions and re-grading several positions until the March vote
- Accepted donation of a Teq Ball court and will work with Diana on a "Teq Ball Around the World" campaign soliciting recommendations on where to place it. [Video showing Teqball](#)
- Set March meeting for bike shops to potentially program a waterfront location for bike rentals and events

- Coordinated BPRW involvement with UVM and Champlain College Fairs and connected with BHS and St. Michael's on other opportunities.
- Will attend City Parks Alliance Greater and Greener Conference in June

Commission notes

- No additional notes this month